

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-164 (canceled)

165. (Previously Presented) A system for processing documents, the system comprising:

at least one input receptacle that receives a stack of documents;

at least one output receptacle that receives the stack of documents;

an image scanning system that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each document in the stack and extracts, from the document image, an amount of information which uniquely identifies the document;

a transport mechanism that transports each of the documents in the stack, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanning system, to the at least one output receptacle;

a memory that stores an amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document; and

a processor operating to compare the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document in the stack to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, and to identify, as a suspect document, any document in the stack with matching information.

166. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the amount of information which uniquely identifies each document is a predetermined field of a document image, and wherein the amount of information which identifies a counterfeit document is a predetermined field of a counterfeit document image.

167. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the amount of information which uniquely identifies each document is an encoded data field of a document image, and wherein the amount of information which identifies a counterfeit document is an encoded field of a counterfeit document image.

168. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the processor is a portion of the image scanner and is linked to the memory.

169. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the processor is a controller that is linked to the image scanner and the memory.

170. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the image scanning system locates a field of the document image and extracts the amount of information from the field.

171. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the image scanning system comprises optical character recognition capability to locate the amount of information in the document image and to extract the amount of information from the document image.

172. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the image scanning system comprises optical character recognition capability to locate a field in the document image and to extract the amount of information from the field.

173. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the transport mechanism transports the documents in a direction that is perpendicular to a longer edge of the document.

174. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the image scanning system obtains an image of at least a portion of each side of each document and extracts the amount of information which uniquely identifies the document from either document image.

Claims 175-188. (Canceled).

189. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the memory is remotely located from the at least one input receptacle and the image scanner.

190. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 189, wherein the memory is further linked to a network.

191. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 190, further comprising a plurality of systems linked to the network and each of the plurality of systems adapted to communicate with the memory via the network in comparing the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, and identifying, as a suspect document, any document with matching information.

192. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 191, wherein the plurality of systems are located at more than one financial institution.

193. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 165, further comprising a discrimination and authentication unit that tests each of the documents using one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents; wherein:

the transport mechanism further transports each of the documents, one at a time, past the discrimination and authentication unit; and

the processor further updates the counterfeit document information stored in the memory with the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document that fails one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

Claims 194-206. (Canceled).

207. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 193, wherein the memory is remotely located from the at least one input receptacle, the image scanner and the discrimination and authentication unit.

208. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 207, wherein the memory is further linked to a network.

209. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 208, further comprising a plurality of systems linked to the network and each of the plurality of systems adapted to communicate with the memory via the network in comparing the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, and identifying, as a suspect document, any document with matching information.

210. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 209, wherein the plurality of systems are located at more than one financial institution.

211. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 165, wherein:
the documents are currency bills;
the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents are currency bill serial numbers; and
the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number.

212. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 211, wherein:
the image scanning system obtains an image of at least a portion of each side of each currency bill and extracts the currency bill serial number from either currency bill image;
the image scanning system further extracts, from either currency bill image, at least one of a series number, a signatory name, a back plate number, a city code, a front plate number, a print code and a dollar amount.

Claims 213-214. (Canceled).

215. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 165, wherein:
the documents are checks;
the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents is at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number; and
the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.

216. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 215, wherein the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number are associated with counterfeit checks, accounts with insufficient funds, checks with stop payment orders, accounts with holds, overdrawn accounts, and/or closed accounts.

217. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 165, wherein:
the documents are currency bills and checks;
the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are currency bills, are currency bill serial numbers;
the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are checks, is at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number;
the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a currency bill, is at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number; and
the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a check, is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.

218. (Withdrawn) The system according to Claim 217, wherein the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number are associated with counterfeit checks, accounts with insufficient funds, checks with stop payment orders, accounts with holds, overdrawn accounts, and/or closed accounts.

219. (Previously Presented) A method for processing documents, the method comprising:

obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of documents transported from a stack of document;

extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of documents, an amount of information which uniquely identifies the document;

storing an amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document;

comparing the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document; and

identifying, as a suspect document, the documents from the stack with matching information.

220. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 219, further comprising:

receiving the plurality of documents into at least one input receptacle; and

transporting each of the plurality of documents, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle to at least one output receptacle.

221. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 219, further comprising rejecting any document identified as suspect.

222. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 219, further comprising halting processing of the plurality of documents if any of the documents are identified as suspect documents.

223. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 219, further comprising alerting an operator if any of the documents are identified as suspect documents.

224. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 219, further comprising indicating if any of the documents are identified as suspect documents.

225. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 219, further comprising:
obtaining an image of at least a portion of each side of each of the plurality of documents; and
extracting from either image of each of the plurality of documents, the amount of information which uniquely identifies the document.

Claims 226-237. (Canceled).

238. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 219, further comprising:
accessing the information which identifies at least one counterfeit document via a network;
comparing, via the network, the extracted information uniquely identifying each of the plurality of documents to the stored counterfeit document information.

239. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 238, further comprising comparing, at a plurality of locations at more than one financial institution, the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document.

240. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 219, further comprising:
testing each of the plurality of documents with one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents; and
updating the stored information which identifies at least one counterfeit document with the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document that fails the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

Claims 241-254. (Canceled).

255. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 240, further comprising:
accessing, via a network, the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document;
comparing, via the network, the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document; and
updating, via the network, the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document with the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents that fail any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

256. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 255, further comprising comparing, via the network, at a plurality of locations at more than one financial institution, the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document.

257. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 219, wherein:
the documents are currency bills;
the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents are currency bill serial numbers; and
the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number.

258. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 257, further comprising:
obtaining an image of at least a portion of each side of each currency bill and extracting the currency bill serial number from either currency bill image;
obtaining, from either currency bill image, at least one of a series number, a signatory name, a back plate number, a city code, a front plate number, a print code and a dollar amount.

Claims 259-260. (Canceled).

261. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 219, wherein:

the documents are checks;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents is at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.

262. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 261, wherein the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number are associated with counterfeit checks, accounts with insufficient funds, checks with stop payment orders, accounts with holds, overdrawn accounts, and/or closed accounts.

263. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 219, wherein:

the documents are currency bills and checks;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are currency bills, are currency bill serial numbers;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are checks, is at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number;

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a currency bill, is at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a check, is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.

264. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 263, wherein the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number are associated with counterfeit checks, accounts with insufficient funds, checks with stop payment orders, accounts with holds, overdrawn accounts, and/or closed accounts.

Claims 265-324. (Canceled).

325. (New) A system for processing documents, the system comprising:

- at least one input receptacle that receives a stack of documents;
- at least one output receptacle that receives the stack of documents;
- an image scanning system that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each document in the stack and extracts, from the document image, an amount of information which uniquely identifies the document;
- an authentication unit that tests each document using one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents;
- a transport mechanism that transports each of the documents in the stack, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanning system and authentication unit, to the at least one output receptacle;
- a memory that stores an amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document; and
- a processor operating to compare the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document in the stack to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, and to identify, as a suspect document, any document in the stack with matching information,

the processor further updates the amount of information stored in the memory with the extracted amount of information from any document that fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

326. (New) A method for processing documents, the method comprising:

- obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of documents transported from a stack of document;
- extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of documents, an amount of information which uniquely identifies the document;
- storing an amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document;
- comparing the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document;
- identifying, as a suspect document, the documents from the stack with matching information;
- testing each of the documents with one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents; and
- updating the stored amount of information with the extracted amount of information from any document that fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.